



# SESSION 1

## Starting with the End in Mind:

The Competencies, Skills, and Knowledge New Workers Need to Thrive in Today's (and Tomorrow's) Workforce

Thursday, September 18, 2025  
8:00 - 11:30 am

UW Milwaukee -  
Chemistry Building





## ABOUT THE SERIES

“Beyond the Walls” is a forum presented by VJS Construction Services that brings educational and industry leaders together to share knowledge, foster relationships, and enhance Milwaukee’s future workforce.

### WHY THIS MATTERS

- Highlights **real-world partnerships** between education and industry
- Focuses on **skills-based talent development**
- Gives leaders **tools and ideas** they can bring back to their schools and organizations
- Offers a **rotating format and location** to keep conversations fresh and relevant
- Creates **networking opportunities**

### SESSION TOPICS\*

\*Session topics may change based on our attendee feedback.

**Session 1:** Starting with the End in Mind - TODAY!

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**Session 2:** Developing Private Sector Programs - December 4, 2025

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**Session 3:** Nurturing a Culture that Retains and Unleashes Young Talent - Spring 2026

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**Session 4:** Topic To Be Determined Based on Attendee Feedback - Spring 2026

Register for sessions and stay up-to-date on the series by visiting our website.



# AGENDA

**8:00 - 9:15 am**    **Introduction & Panel Discussion**  
What do employees of today (and tomorrow) need to thrive?

**9:15 - 9:45 am**    **Site Tour**  
Site tour of the UW Milwaukee - Chemistry Building led by  
VJS Construction Services

**10:00 - 11:00 am**    **Workshop at the Lubar Entrepreneurial Center**  
Interactive Workshop led by Dan Schiller, Founder & Principal of  
Future Found in the Lubar Entrepreneurial Building

**11:00 - 11:30 am**    **Networking & Refreshments**

## MAXIMIZE THE VALUE OF "BEYOND THE WALLS" BY ATTENDING EACH SESSION

Complete the series to unlock  
the full perspective!



SESSION 1 STICKER

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



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|-----------|-----------|
| SESSION 1 | SESSION 2 |
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Enhancing Milwaukee's future workforce together.

**Beyond the Walls**  
EDUCATION & INDUSTRY FORUM

**vjs**  
CONSTRUCTION  
SERVICES

# SPEAKER BIOS



## INTRODUCTORY SPEAKER

**ROBYN LUDTKE**

✉ [rludtke1@wctc.edu](mailto:rludtke1@wctc.edu)

**Executive Director, WCTC Foundation**

Robyn Ludtke is a workforce development leader with expertise in talent pipelines, strategic initiatives, and community partnerships. She is executive director of the WCTC Foundation and formerly served as senior vice president at the Waukesha County Business Alliance, where she led the expansion of Schools2Skills and helped launch the Waukesha County Center for Growth. Robyn holds a BA from Ottawa University and professional credentials from the U.S. Chamber's Talent Pipeline Management Academy, MRA, and Leadership Waukesha.

She was honored with United Way's 2023 Emerging Leaders Philanthropic 5 Award and TEMPO Waukesha's 2022 Community Leader Award. Robyn has served on numerous boards including the WCTC District Board, Hartland Village Board, and Women and Girls Fund of Waukesha County, and co-chaired the Women United Leadership Council. She lives in Waukesha County with her husband and two children.



## MODERATOR

**LUKE HARRISON**

✉ [lukesharrison13@gmail.com](mailto:lukesharrison13@gmail.com)

**Leadership Coach & Consultant, Cristo Rey Network**

Luke Harrison is a leadership coach and consultant who served as founding principal of Cristo Rey Jesuit HS Milwaukee (2014–2024) and academic dean at Achievement First's flagship high school (2006–2014). He partners with organizations to strengthen the connection between school, career, and long-term thriving, and coaches leaders in grounding their work through emotional intelligence. His carpentry practice informs his belief in the connection between physical space and lived experience.

A graduate of Rufus King HS, Luke holds degrees from Fordham (BA), NYU (MA), and National Louis University (MEd), and is a certified Emotional Intelligence 5-Square Leadership Coach. He's a recipient of the Herb Kohl Principal Leadership Award and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Rose Award. He serves on the Board of Trustees for the Lux Foundation and the Education Committee at Nativity Jesuit Academy. Luke lives in Milwaukee with his librarian wife and their three teenage daughters.



## PANELIST

**Kate Trevey**

✉ [kate.trevey@marquette.edu](mailto:kate.trevey@marquette.edu)

**Director of Engineering & Innovation Leadership  
Development, Opus College of Engineering at Marquette**

Kate Trevey leads university-wide efforts to develop the leadership capacity of future innovators and change agents. She directs and teaches courses in the Excellence in Leadership (E-Lead) Program, an interdisciplinary three-year curricular innovation leadership development program for cohorts of 40 students from majors across campus. In addition, Kate develops and facilitates custom and corporate innovation and leadership programs for companies and educational institutions in the region.

Kate holds a Master's degree in Education from Loyola University Chicago and a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Marquette University. She was named a 2019 Woman of Influence by the Milwaukee Business Journal, a Notable Woman in STEM by the BizTimes in 2023, and one of 30 people shaping Milwaukee's future by the BizTimes in 2025.



## PANELIST

**LAURIE MARKS**

✉ [lmarks@uwm.edu](mailto:lmarks@uwm.edu)

**Executive Director, Center for Student  
Experience & Talent at UW – Milwaukee**

Dr. Laurie Marks has worked for 20+ years building experiential learning partnerships for UWM students so that they graduate ready to be active leaders in the workplace and community. In 2021, Dr. Marks became the founding Executive Director of the new UWM Center for Student Experience and Talent (SET), which includes career services, community engagement, on-campus student employment, and internships.

SET was established to provide all students with hands-on professional development experiences during their school years, while also fostering professional networks in their intended industries. Dr. Marks is a Milwaukee native and a two-time alumnus of UWM, earning both her PhD and bachelor's degree there, and her M.Ed. at Marquette University.

# SPEAKER BIOS



## PANELIST

### SUSAN RANFT

✉ [susan.ranft@jci.com](mailto:susan.ranft@jci.com)

**Human Resources Vice President for Global Field Operations Americas, Johnson Controls**

Susan Ranft is Human Resources Vice President for Global Field Operations Americas at Johnson Controls. With a strong commitment to workforce development, Susan has led efforts to enhance collaboration with Community Colleges, fostering educational partnerships that benefit both students and the organization.

Prior to her current role, Susan spent approximately 20 years in HR business partner and talent leadership positions at ManpowerGroup and IBM. She holds a Master's in Education Policy from Harvard University and a BA in International Studies from St. Norbert College. Susan's dedication to workforce development extends beyond her professional career. She also serves as a board member at Cristo Rey High School of Milwaukee, which provides a career-focused, college-preparatory education and work experience to its students.



## PANELIST

### LYNELL MEETH

✉ [lynell.meeth@bankfivenine.com](mailto:lynell.meeth@bankfivenine.com)

**Talent Development Director, Assistant Vice President, Bank Five Nine**

With over 25 years of HR and consulting experience, Lynell Meeth has enjoyed working side-by-side with executives on strategy, brainstorming with managers on engagement and retention, and advising HR professionals on compliance. Lynell started her career in the banking industry, moved to a non-profit employer association, then a tech company, and is now back to her roots in banking as a Talent Development Director at Bank Five Nine, a local community bank headquartered in Oconomowoc, WI.

What inspires her? Learning from others, seeing the positive, finding a solution in the midst of challenges, and dark chocolate. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling to the East Coast to visit her adult children and learning to tap dance. She also serves on the Board for the Wellness Council of Wisconsin (WCWI), and is an active member/ally with the local chapters of ATD (Association for Talent Development) and NAAHR (National Association of African Americans in HR).



## PANELIST

**DWAYNE SAMPSON**

✉️ [dwaynesampson253@gmail.com](mailto:dwaynesampson253@gmail.com)

**Alumni, Milwaukee Academy of Science**

Dwayne Sampson is a journeyman sheet-metal worker and a member of Sheet Metal Workers Local Union #18. He is also the owner of Sampson Handyman Service and an independent real estate investor and stock investor. An alum of Milwaukee Academy of Science (class of 2018), Dwayne is a graduate of the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership-Building Industry Group and Skilled Trades Employment Program (WRTP-BIG STEP), and the Transportation Alliance for New Solutions (TRANS) program. He also holds a certificate in project management from MATC.

Deeply committed to his community, Dwayne strives to help others bring out the potential they never knew they had, to find their individual path, and to understand they are branches on the tree of humanity -- all connected to the same strong trunk and reliant on the same roots for nourishment.



## PANELIST

**ANGIE SANDOVAL**

✉️ [angie.alexandra.sandoval@jci.com](mailto:angie.alexandra.sandoval@jci.com)

**Alumni, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School**

Angie Sandoval is a proud graduate of the School of Human Ecology at UW–Madison, where she majored in Community Organization and Development. As a first-generation college student, Angie understands the power of exposure, support networks, and perseverance—values that continue to shape her career. Now working in the Community Affairs department at Johnson Controls, Angie focuses on philanthropy and volunteerism, supporting global programs that empower employees to give back through both financial contributions and hands-on service. Her passion stems from personal experience, having benefited from youth programs that opened doors to career opportunities and inspired her to pursue a path where she could pay it forward.

Outside of work, Angie enjoys traveling, exploring new cultures, and spending time with her dog, Buddy. She's deeply family-oriented and loves hosting holidays and birthday celebrations at her family home.

# WORKSHOP



## WORKSHOP LEADER

**DAN SCHILLER**  
Founder & Principal, Future Found

✉ [dan@futurefound.org](mailto:dan@futurefound.org)

414.502.8482

Dan Schiller is driven by a commitment to help all young people access the support and opportunities they need to reach their full potential. Since 2003, he has led local, regional, and national nonprofits focused on social-emotional learning, mentoring, and leadership—partnering with schools to create environments where students and staff thrive. He is the founder of Future Found, a consulting firm that supports purpose-driven leaders and organizations in clarifying their focus and maximizing their community impact.

With a background in psychology (BS, UW–Madison) and clinical social work (MSW, UW–Milwaukee), Dan brings a deep understanding of people and systems, enhanced by training in design thinking, social entrepreneurship, project management, SEL, belonging, and strategic leadership. Based in Wauwatosa, WI, Dan is a dad, coach, and outdoor enthusiast. He and his wife, Lindsay, are raising their two daughters, Teigan and Grace, alongside their spirited dog, Scout. He spends his free time skiing, paddling, hiking, and building.



# NEXT UP: SESSION 2

## Developing Private Sector Programs: Building Private Sector - Education Partnerships that Move the Needle

### SESSION SUMMARY

At the inaugural session today, we painted a common picture of success: new professionals equipped to have immediate impact in their workplaces. In Session 2, we turn our attention to education-industry partnerships that transform students into career-ready graduates.

Our opening speakers will explain the evolving career landscape and employment pipeline in the region and introduce a framework for thinking about school-industry collaboration. Next, our panel of education leaders and industry partners will highlight successful partnerships and share firsthand insights on the impact of their work together.

To close the session, participants will take part in a dynamic, rotating format that offers the opportunity to meet directly with multiple organizations seeking to collaborate.

Join us at the table for this critical conversation on December 4.

**REGISTER  
NOW!**



**When:** Thursday, December 4, 2025  
3:00 - 6:00 pm

**Where:** Hmong American Peace Academy

**WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!** Please fill out our anonymous feedback form so we can improve our upcoming sessions.

